

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A display-panel-drive apparatus having a drive unit that drives a display panel and a control-signal-generation  
5 unit that uses logic circuits to generate control signals for controlling said drive unit, the display-panel-drive apparatus comprising:

a detection device which detects abnormalities in the power-supply voltage of said control-signal-generation unit;  
10 and

a control device which controls said drive unit when said detection device detects an abnormality in said power-supply voltage.

15 2. The display-panel-drive apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a control board of said control unit, and wherein said detection device is mounted on said control board.

20 3. The display-panel-drive apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said detection device detects when said voltage is greater than a specified limit and when said voltage is less than a specified limits as an error in said voltage.

25 4. The display-panel-drive apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said control device stops operation of said drive unit when said detection device detects an error in said

power-supply voltage.

5        5. The display-panel-drive apparatus according to claim  
1, wherein said display-panel-drive apparatus drives a plasma  
display panel as said display panel.

10       6. The display-panel-drive apparatus according to claim  
5, wherein said control signals are signals that cause said  
drive unit to output scan pulses given to successive display  
lines for setting some of the discharge cells located on said  
plasma-display panel as light-emitting cells and some as  
non-emitting cells.

15       7. A method of driving display-panel apparatus having  
a drive unit that drives a display panel and a  
control-signal-generation unit that uses logic circuits to  
generate control signals for controlling said drive unit,  
the method comprising:

20       a detection process of detecting abnormalities in the  
power-supply voltage of said control-signal-generation unit;  
and

25       a control process of controlling said drive unit when  
said detection device detects an abnormality in said  
power-supply voltage.

8. The method of driving display-panel apparatus according  
to claim 7, wherein said detection process detects when said

voltage is greater than a specified limit and when said voltage is less than a specified limits as an error in said voltage.

9. The method of driving display-panel apparatus  
5 according to claim 7, wherein said control process stops operation of said drive unit when said detection process detects an error in said power-supply voltage.

10. The method of driving display-panel apparatus  
10 according to claim 7, wherein said display-panel apparatus drives a plasma display panel as said display panel.

11. The method of driving display-panel apparatus  
according to claim 10, wherein said control signals are signals  
15 that cause said drive unit to output scan pulses given to successive display lines for setting some of the discharge cells located on said plasma-display panel as light-emitting cells and some as non-emitting cells.

20 12. An information recording medium in which a display-panel driving program is recorded in a readable way by a recording computer included in a display-panel driving apparatus which has a drive unit that drives a display panel and a control-signal-generation unit that uses logic circuits  
25 to generate control signals for controlling said drive unit, the display-panel driving program causing the recording

computer to function as:

a detection device which detects abnormalities in the power-supply voltage of said control-signal-generation unit;  
and

- 5 a control device which controls said drive unit when said detection device detects an abnormality in said power-supply voltage.